



# The TURNTABLE

December 2010

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PAID & VOLUNTEER STAFF OF RAILTOWN 1897 STATE HISTORIC PARK

## Important Dates To Remember

**December 2nd—  
Thursday**  
Annual Railtown  
Ladies Christmas &  
Ornament Exchange  
and Luncheon Potluck  
Will be held at Wilma  
Bushart's home  
190 Apple Valley  
Road, Sonora,  
Call Wilma for info @  
209-588-9833

**December 18 & 19th**  
Santa's Express Trains

**December 19th—  
Sunday**  
Annual Railtown  
Christmas Party 5pm

**January 22nd—  
Saturday**  
Volunteer Recognition  
Dinner, Elks Lodge  
5pm

**January 29th—  
Saturday**  
9am—1pm Jamestown  
Community Hall  
Continuing Docent  
Training/All Hands

**February 12th—  
Saturday**  
New Volunteer Open  
House

**February 26th—  
Saturday**  
New Volunteer  
Orientation & Training

**March 19th & 20th**  
GCOR Training  
Jamestown  
Community Hall  
8-5pm

## What A Great Year !

*Merry Christmas &  
the Happiest of  
Holidays to all our  
volunteers!*

*Thank you  
for a job well done  
from all the staff at  
Railtown 1897  
State Historic Park*



### **Sequoia To Perform at our Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner**

Saturday January 22 is our date for our annual Volunteer recognition dinner, honoring all Railtown volunteers who have logged 84 hours or more of service to our State Park. This year's dinner will be held at the Sonora Elks Lodge, starting at 5pm with a no host Bar. Dinner will be at 6pm and awards presented at 7pm. Sequoia is a locally known trio featuring beautiful hammered dulcimer music, and a range of tunes, including Celtic, Americana, bluegrass, jigs, reels and sweet ballads. They will play from 6-7pm. Invitations will be sent out in December, RSVPs requested. If you are one of those volunteers who fall short by a few hours, it may not be too late to log a few more in December, with the Christmas train weekend. Call Dave Rainwater for info.

### **Join Us for our Annual Volunteer Christmas Party**

This year it will be held at the Senior Center on Greenley Road (next to the library) On Sunday December 19th starting at 5pm. This fun party is a time for us all to unwind And enjoy holiday refreshments together. Don't forget to bring a gift for the fun gift exchange (\$10-\$15 max). It can be anything from nice to goofy and we all draw lots. This is a potluck, coordinated by Laverne (533-4080). She is suggesting all with last names with letters A thru M, bring a side dish or salad. Those with last names from N thru Z should bring a dessert.

### **December Announcements**

There will be no Tuesday work days on December 21st or 28th due to the holidays. Also Marge Lovingfoss has notified us, that the 'Caboos Kitchen Gals' will not be cooking us lunch on Tuesdays in December. They're all taking a much needed break for the holidays. Let's all give them a hand for their outstanding service on Tuesdays!

**\*Please Note: Our next issue of The Turntable will be February 2011**

## Volunteer of The Month– Darryl Bramlette

Darryl Bramlette is our choice this time for volunteer of the Month. He is the perfect picture of an old time Car Host, and is there whenever the 2901 is on line. Darryl shares a particular love for the 2901 and our trains and is well versed on the history of each car. He's here on our Tuesday work days almost always without fail, and always tinkering with electrical or mechanical problems. He recently devoted a lot of hours to setting up the lights for our Starlight Express trains. Whenever a special tour group needs a guide he is always first to volunteer. His wife Linda also volunteers, spending many hours with the Tuesday Ladies preparing lunch or joining Darryl as a Car Host whenever the 2901 is on. They first started coming to Railtown in 1996 joining the then active Railtown Docents Association and our own California Railroad Museum. Darryl was raised near Fresno and grew up working on his father's ranch. His father was a well driller and they boarded horses and raised pheasants commercially. He acquired a BA in physical science from Sacramento State University. He immediately went to work in the aerospace industry at the age of 18 and retired after 49 years. Virgil and Marge Lovingfoss and John 'Gunny' Harmon were among the first volunteers he enjoyed working with and he is particularly keen to say his main love for Railtown is the camaraderie of our volunteer family the best. From all the volunteers and staff, we'd like to say.....Thank you Darryl!



Pictured Right: Darryl with his wife Linda

## 2011 New & Returning Volunteers Training Dates Announced

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <u>January 29</u>               | Continuing Volunteer Training– All Hands, Jamestown Community Hall  |
| <u>February 12</u>              | New Volunteer Open House 9am-1pm (Carriage Room)  |
| <u>February 26</u>              | New Volunteer Orientation 9am-3pm (Carriage Room)   |
| <u>March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23</u> | Interpreting Railtown workshops. Veteran tour guides and Car Hosts will show us how to do it each Wednesday in March from 9am—4pm   |
| <u>March 5th &amp; 12</u>       | Saturdays 10am-2pm Historians Dave Connery and Joe Sparagna will each present a slide presentation on the history of the Sierra Railway and the lumber companies, then each will present their approach to giving a Railtown tour |
| <u>March 19 &amp; 20</u>        | GCOR & RR Ops Training <u>Required</u> for all Engine Crew volunteers, strongly encouraged for fire patrol. Jamestown Community Hall 8-5. Bring a brown bag lunch or dine out in Jamestown  |
| <u>March 26</u>                 | Season Preview & Orientation 11am-1pm Staff & Volunteer train ride, 2-3pm pre season train ride open to the public  |
| <u>March 26</u>                 | Fire Patrol training begins   |
| <u>April 2-3</u>                | Excursion Train Season Opens<br>(All Tuolumne, Calaveras & Mariposa County residents ride free!)  |





Return of the  
"Movie Star Sierra No. 3"



Volunteerism at Railtown increased by 20% in 2010!



The newly restored No. 7 came  
back online in September



Railtown memberships  
increased by 100%!



Cactus Bob & Prairie Flower were among the first performers  
at our 1st Annual *Singing Rails Festival*, along with The Black  
Irish Band and Lori Brandon & Chris Miller. Join us in 2011  
when Grammy Award winner Laurie Lewis will be our featured  
performer!



The 'Live Steamers' joined us  
once again on Labor Day



Field trip to the Western  
Railway Museum.



Storyteller BZ Smith  
entertains on Caboose Day.



Field trip to  
Niles Canyon Railway

## Highlights from 2010



Our Santa's Starlight Express Trains were a great success for the  
second year in a row. Pictured here is the No. 2 from 2009



School Days in May



1st Annual Mark Twain Train  
featuring Pat Kaunert as "Mark Twain"  
and entertainers Dave  
Rainwater and Lori Brandon





**RAILTOWN 1897**  
State Historic Park

**PO Box 1250**

**Jamestown, CA 95327**

**Return Service Requested**



**TO:**

**Depot Store-** (209) 984-3953

**Docent Hotline-** (209) 984-4408

**Docent Site-** <http://Railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers/default.aspx>

**Railtown Blog-** [www.railtown1897.wordpress.com](http://www.railtown1897.wordpress.com)



### **Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information**

*Newsletter submissions: [RailtownNews@parks.ca.gov](mailto:RailtownNews@parks.ca.gov)*

|  |          |  |
|--|----------|--|
| <b>Kim Baker</b> , Park Superintendent                       | 984-4622 | <a href="mailto:kbaker@parks.ca.gov">kbaker@parks.ca.gov</a>           |
| <b>George Sapp</b> , Railroad Restoration Lead Worker (DSLE) | 774-6368 | <a href="mailto:gsapp@parks.ca.gov">gsapp@parks.ca.gov</a>             |
| <b>Kevin Zimmerman</b> , (DSLE)                              | 557-0294 | <a href="mailto:Kevin@obriensmarket.com">Kevin@obriensmarket.com</a>   |
| <b>Ryan Richelson</b> , Maintenance Supervisor               | 984-3115 | <a href="mailto:rrichelson@parks.ca.gov">rrichelson@parks.ca.gov</a>   |
| <b>Rob Buchanan</b> , Park Maintenance Worker I              | 984-3115 | <a href="mailto:rbuchanan@parks.ca.gov">rbuchanan@parks.ca.gov</a>     |
| <b>Danny Taylor</b> , Park Maintenance Assistant             | 984-3115 | <a href="mailto:dtaylor@parks.ca.gov">dtaylor@parks.ca.gov</a>         |
| <b>Dave Rainwater</b> , Park Aid & Volunteer Coordinator     | 984-4408 | <a href="mailto:darainwater@parks.ca.gov">darainwater@parks.ca.gov</a> |
| <b>Lisa Smithson</b> , State Park Curator I (DER)            | 984-8719 | <a href="mailto:lsmithson@parks.ca.gov">lsmithson@parks.ca.gov</a>     |
| <b>Ron White</b> , Crew Caller Car Hosts                     | 551-7087 | <a href="mailto:rbarryw@att.net">rbarryw@att.net</a>                   |
| <b>Dave Tadlock</b> , Crew Caller                            | 383-1353 | <a href="mailto:1oldmotorman@comcast.net">1oldmotorman@comcast.net</a> |
| <b>Rich Guantone</b> , Crew Caller Fire Patrol               | 763-2617 | <a href="mailto:guantone@comcast.net">guantone@comcast.net</a>         |

*Newsletter Available in Alternative Format on Request*